

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 208714 TOSEC 100482

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TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ROLAND EVANS/ROBERT NOVAK: SALT CONFRONTATION:
JACKSON AND KISSINGER

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH, S/PRS
NO. 51

HEREWITH IS COMPLETE TEXT EVANS/NOVAK EDITORIAL, WASHINGTON
POST, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

SALT CONFRONTATION: JACKSON AND KISSINGER

"WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER RETURNS FROM HIS
MIDEAST TRIUMPH, HE WILL FIND ON HIS DESK AN EXTRAORDINARIL
HARSH LETTER DEMANDING HIS PRESENCE AT A LONG DELAYED
CONFRONTATION WITH SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON (D-WASH) OVER SALT.

SINCE MARCH, JACKSON HAS SOUGHT KISSINGER TO TESTIFY ON
SALT BEFORE THE ARMS CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE
ARMED CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE. ON AUGUST 22, WITH KISSINGER
SHUTTLING BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR-
MAN JACKSON WROTE HIM (BUT DID NOT PUBLICLY RELEASE) A KETTTER
THAT READ LIKE A SUBPOENA. IN LANGUAGE SELDOM USED BY A
SENIOR SENATOR TO A SECRETARY OF STATE, THE LETTER CONCLUDES
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'YOUR PERSISTENT FAILURE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN
THE FACE OF SOVIET (MISSILE) DEPLOYMENTS INCONSISTENT
WITH YOUR ASSURANCES TO THE CONGRESS (ABOUT SALT I
AGREEMENT) RAISES SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE MANNERIN

WHICH THAT AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED. ACCORDINGLY, I MUST AGAIN REQUEST THAT YOU PROVIDE THE SUBCOMMITTEE WITH A LIST OF DATES ON WHICH YOU ARE PREPARED TO APPEAR AND RESPOND TO THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS.'

THAT LEAVES DR. KISSINGER WITH TWO UNATTRACTIVE OPTIONS:

OPTION NO. 1: STONEWALL, IGNORING JACKSON'S LETTER. BUT THAT COULD EXTEND KISSINGER'S VENDETTA WITH JACKSON TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARENT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE IMMENSELY PRESTIGIOUS SEN. JOHN STENNIS (D-MISS), WHO MIGHT RISE IN DEFENSE OF SENATE PREROGATIVES.

OPTION NO. 2: CAPITULATE, JOINING IN A CONFRONTATION WITH ALL ADVANTAGES HELD BY JACKSON, WHO AS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WILL CONTROL QUESTIONING. ALTHOUGH THE HEARINGS WOULD BE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, JACKSON WOULD PUSH FOR QUICK PUBLICATION OF A TRANSCRIPT.

EITHER OPTION GUARANTEES ESCALATION IN THE POLITICAL DEBATE OVER DETENTE. WHILE KISSINGER IS INTENT ON A SALT II AGREEMENT, PRESIDENT FORD IS FINDING DETENTE A DIMINISHING POLITICAL ASSET. JACKSON, SEEKING THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, WILL INSURE THAT SALT AND DETENTE ARE POLITICAL DEBATING POINTS.

JACKSON NEVER LIKED THE 1972 SALT I AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND KISSINGER. EARLY THIS YEAR HE CHARGED THAT SOVIET DEPLOYMENT OF THE HUGE SS-19 MISSILE VIOLATES KISSINGER'S ASSURANCES IN SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF SALT I THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT REPLACE OLD MISSILES WITH LARGER ONES.

THE JACKSON SUBCOMMITTEE HEARD CLOSED DOOR TESTIMONY ABOUT THIS FROM CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY ON FEB. 11
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AND DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER ON MARCH 3. WHILE REFUSING TO CHARGE VIOLATIONS OF UNDERSTANDINGS, EACH CONFIRMED JACKSON'S SS-19 FACTS.

JACKSON NEXT SOUGHT KISSINGER'S APPEARANCE. SUBCOMMITTEE AIDES REPEATEDLY ('AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES' CLAIMS ONE JACKSON MAN) ASKED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SCHEDULE KISSINGER. A TENTATIVE DATE OF MAY 15 WAS ONCE SET BUT WAS CANCELLED BEUSE OF THE VISIT HERE BY THE SHAH OF IRAN.

IN TRUTH, KISSINGER FEELS JACKSON'S INSISTENCE THAT HE TESTIFY UNDER OATH IS A GRATUITIOUS INDIGNITY. HIS APPEARANCE AS A SWORN WITNESS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE

ON JUNE 24, 1974, LED TO AN UNPLEASANT SCENE. WHEN
ASKED BY KISSINGER IN MAY WHETHER TO RISK A REPETITION,
ONE OF THE SECRETARY'S SHREWDEST ADVISERS TOLD KISSINGER
HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH JACKSON HAD SO DETERIORATED THAT HE
SHOULD DUCK OUT.

INSTEAD, KISSINGER OPERATIVES HAVE TRIED TO GIVE CONGRESS
HIS VIEWS ON SALT WITHOUT CONFRONTING JACKSON. ONE
POSSIBILITY IS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FRIENDLY ARMS CONTROL
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
HEADED BY SEN. STUART SYMINGTON (D-MO) (WHERE KISSINGER
WOULD NOT TESTIFY UNDER OATH). BESIDES THAT, KISSINGER IS
ALSO CONSIDERING SENDING CONGRESS A STATE DEPARTMENT
WHITE PAPER ON SALT.

TO AVOID PREEMPTION BY THE SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE OR A
WHITE PAPER, JACKSON WROTE HIS AUG. 22 LETTER, BEARING
THE FORMAL SALUTATION OF 'DEAR MR. SECRETARY'
(THE OLD FIRST-NAME DAYS OF 'SCOOP' AND 'HENRY' BEING LONG
GONE).

JACKSON'S LETTER LEAVES NO DOUBT WHAT HE WANTS: 'AS THE
ONLY MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT AT THE
NEGOTIATIONS OF THE SALT I AGREEMENT ... YOU ALONE ARE IN
A POSITION TO TELL THE SUBCOMMITTEE ... WHY THE ADMINISTRATI
HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE ITS PLEDGE TO REGARD THE DEPLOYMENT
OF THE NEW SOVIET SS-19 MISSILE AS A HEAVY MISSILE AND
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THEREFORE ONE WHOSE DEPLOYMENT CONTRAVENES THE U.S.
INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT.'

THAT HAS THE TONE OF A CHALLENGE, NOT AN INVITATION. HOW
KISSINGER REACTS TO IT COULD CAST A LONG SHADOW OVER
FUTURE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EVENTS. " END TEXT

ROBINSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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